

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 425

Introduced by Assembly Member Richman

February 14, 2003

An act to amend Section 743.1 of the Public Utilities Code, relating to public utilities.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 425, as introduced, Richman. Electric service: rates: interruptible programs.

(1) The Public Utilities Act authorizes the Public Utilities Commission to establish rates for public utilities regulated by the commission, including electrical corporations. The act requires electrical corporations to continue the availability to qualified heavy industrial customers, until March 31, 2002, of optional interruptible or curtailable service wherein the heavy industrial customer is charged a rate that reflects a pricing incentive for electing to operate under the optional or curtailable service.

This bill would instead require the commission to continue the availability to qualified heavy industrial customers of optional interruptible or curtailable service until December 31, 2008.

Because a violation of the act is a crime, this bill, by continuing to require electrical corporations to offer optional interruptible or curtailable service, would change the definition of a crime, thereby imposing a state-mandated local program.

(2) The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that no reimbursement is required by this act for a specified reason.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: yes.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 743.1 of the Public Utilities Code is
2 amended to read:

3 743.1. (a) Electrical corporations shall continue the
4 availability to qualified heavy industrial customers of optional
5 interruptible or curtailable service. The effective rate for
6 interruptible or curtailable service to qualifying customers shall
7 reflect a pricing incentive for electing to operate under the
8 interruptible or curtailable service option.

9 (b) The commission shall direct each public utility electrical
10 corporation to continue its efforts to reduce the rates charged heavy
11 industrial customers to a level competitive with other states, and
12 to do so without shifting recovery of costs to other customer
13 classes. The commission shall continue the availability of optional
14 interruptible or curtailable service at least until ~~March 31, 2002~~
15 *December 31, 2008*. In no event shall the level of the pricing
16 incentive for interruptible or curtailable service be altered from the
17 levels in effect on June 10, 1996, until ~~March 31, 2002~~ *December*
18 *31, 2008*.

19 SEC. 2. No reimbursement is required by this act pursuant to
20 Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution because
21 the only costs that may be incurred by a local agency or school
22 district will be incurred because this act creates a new crime or
23 infraction, eliminates a crime or infraction, or changes the penalty
24 for a crime or infraction, within the meaning of Section 17556 of
25 the Government Code, or changes the definition of a crime within
26 the meaning of Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California
27 Constitution.

